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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 1.78

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 2158

SUBJ: LOCALE FOR PHASE 11 OF SALT

REF: STATE 141966, BERN 2150

1. WE HAVE ARRANGED APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR KELLER FOR MENTER ACDA TUESDAY, AUGUST 8.

2. IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT FLANKS ARE PROTECTED, KELLER WOULD WANT TO ADVISE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL THAT U.S. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL IS MADE ON BEHALF BOTH U.S. AND SOVIET GOVERNMENTS. CAN WE GIVE SUCH FORMAL ASSURANCE?

3. SINCE REFTEL INDICATED WE UNAWARE SOVIET INTENTIONS COMMUNICATE WITH SWISS ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, ARE WE AUTHORIZED DISCUSS THIS WITH OUR SOVIET COLLEAGUES IN BERN? WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE BE SO AUTHORIZED IN VIEW OF THE GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED BETWEEN OUR TWO EMBASSIES.

4. SWISS ALSO CONSIDER THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THIS MATTER FOR TOO LONG A PERIOD AFTER IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL. THEY SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT U.S. PREPARE PUBLIC STATEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER FEDERAL COUNCIL DECISION ON WEDNESDAY SO THAT SWISS IN TURN, MAY MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT THEMSELVES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PRIORITY RESPONSE AS TO WHETHER

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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